



On Duty

New system sends website alerts

Websites have made communication with the EMS and trauma community as easy as pressing a button. However, the EMS/trauma systems website has somewhere in the neighborhood of 3,000 pages, making it nearly impossible to keep up with information as it changes. Now you can. The EMS/trauma system website is offering a new email alert system that lets you know when we make changes to the website based on topics you choose. **There are 12 topics to choose from** ranging from EMS educators to GETAC. You can choose one or all twelve. And every time we upload new information (such as GETAC agendas), you'll be notified. And don't worry—we decide when to send an email. So if we make a small change, like correcting a typo, we won't send an alert. For now, we also will continue to send out messages via EMS/TS announcements listserv. However, the EMS Listserv, which is hosted by a group outside of DSHS, will continue to be available as long as they are willing to host it.

Flight medic certification coming to conference

For the first time, a course that helps to prepare clinicians for the critical care transport certification exams (CCP-C, CFRN, CTRN and FP-C) is being offered at Texas EMS Conference. The course is offered by the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, the Air & Surface Transport Nurses Association (ASTNA) and the International Association of Flight Paramedics (IAFP). While a single course is not sufficient to prepare for the exam, the course will review the advanced clinical and operational material that certification-eligible critical care transport providers are expected to understand to certify. Participants will receive a comprehensive study guide before the course and two full days of interactive presentations on site. The cost is \$200 for IAFCPP/ASTNA members, and \$350 for non-members. The course will be offered November 18 and 19, from 8 am to 6 pm. Register online at www.flightparamedic.org. For more information, contact Monica Newman at m.newman@flightparamedic.org. The FP-C and CCP-C exams will be offered on November 20 from 8 am to 10:30 am. The expectation for the CCP-C exam candidate and/or the FP-C exam candidate is a mastery of current trends and therapies in critical care transport medicine in a flight or ground environment, as well as a significant knowledge of ACLS, PALS, NALS and BTLS/ITLS. FP-C exam candidates should also have a significant knowledge of flight physiology and current CAMTS flight safety standards. The certification exams are not meant to test entry-level knowledge, but rather the experienced paramedic's advanced skill level. Cost for the exam is \$175 for IAFCPP members, \$275 for non-members. For more information contact Monica Newman at mnewman@bcctpc.org.



Brownwood firefighter dies in stadium fall

Shannon Stone, firefighter/EMT, was killed on July 7, after he fell from the stands while reaching for a fly ball at a Texas Rangers game. He was attending the game with his 6-year-old son. Stone, a lieutenant, had been with the Brownwood Fire Department since 1993 and had twice been voted Firefighter of the Year by his peers. He also deployed to fight Texas wildfires and to serve patients during Hurricanes Katrina and Ike. A memorial fund has been set up in Stone's name at the Brownwood Fire Department. Donations can be sent to: Bank of America, c/o Shannon Stone Memorial Fund, Account # 488033378318, 1 Center Ave., Brownwood, 76801.

NR renews Pearson VUE agreement

The National Registry of EMTs has renewed its contract with Pearson VUE to provide computer-based exams for NREMT certification. The new contract will take effect January 1, 2012, and NR is predicting no cost increase on the exam through 2016. However, Pearson VUE will begin to charge additional fees for services such as exam rescheduling and Call Center assistance beginning January 1, 2013. Candidates who *reschedule* exams will pay a \$25 fee; candidates who use the Call Center (instead of the website) to schedule, reschedule or cancel an exam will be charged \$10.



Report criminal history changes

You probably already know that you have to report convictions to DSHS. But did you know you have to report arrests, too? Texas Administrative Code 157.36 lays out 31 reasons why DSHS can suspend, revoke or refuse to renew an EMS certification or paramedic license. Among the reasons is failure to notify the department within 10 business days of being arrested, charged or indicted for any criminal offense, other than any class C misdemeanor not directly related to EMS or other than any offense noted in §157.37(e)(5). Want to read them all? Go to www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems and click on "EMS Rules and Policies" on the right hand menu.



ECAT grants recently awarded

Could you use ECA training in your rural area? Has your area suffered a devastating event? **DSHS has grants available** for ECA training in rural areas (ECAT) and for areas that have suffered a degradation of service due to an unforeseeable event (Extraordinary Emergency Funding, called EEF). For more information on either funding, go to www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/efunding.shtm.

Recently awarded ECAT:
La Coste Lions Volunteer Fire
Medina County



Pediatric trauma organization forms

The Pediatric Trauma Society, a new player in the trauma community, is being organized. Its mission is to improve the outcome of injured children by enhancing pediatric trauma care. The fledgling organization has just voted on bylaws and dues have not been set. Bookmark their website to get up-to-date information on what they'll do: www.pediatrictraumasociety.org.



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Valley AirCare discontinues operations

Valley AirCare, an air medical provider serving the southernmost part of Texas, will discontinue operations October 31 as an affiliate of the South Texas Emergency Care Foundation (STEC). STEC owns the helicopter, it contracts with Metro Aviation for flight crews and maintenance. The recent economic downturn, coupled with lower reimbursement rates for Medicaid and Medicare, made the service no longer financially feasible to operate, according to Rene Perez, STEC director of patient transport services. At one time, the service was transporting 30 to 31 patients per month, but in the last year it dropped to half that number.

Golf tourney benefits Texas EMS Hall of Honor

The Texas Association of Air Medical Services is sponsoring a golf tournament on Friday, November 18, in Austin, in conjunction with Texas EMS Conference. Proceeds **will go to a fund that assists families of those killed in the line of duty in travelling to Austin** for the induction ceremony at Tuesday's luncheon. The tournament format is a four-man scramble with a shotgun start and will take place at the beautiful Onion Creek Country Club on the southern edge of Austin. Registration fees are \$125 per player or \$400 per foursome and includes driving range, golf and dinner. Register online at www.taams.org.



Texas wins international award



The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) has awarded the IAEM-Global Partners in Preparedness Award for 2011 to the Texas Emergency Tracking Network for its cooperative data-sharing project. Partners included: Texas Department of State Health Services, Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council, Southeast Texas Regional Advisory Council, Sabine-Neches Chief's Association, University of Texas Center for Space Research and Radiant RFID, LLC. The award recognizes programs or processes that demonstrate innovative, multi-participant involvement between local governments/governmental entities and private sector businesses, non-governmental organizations/non-profits, or individuals that have resulted in effective and efficient incident management, emergency management or homeland security processes. The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), which has more than 5,000 members in 58 countries, is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to promoting the goals of saving lives and protecting property during emergencies and disasters. IAEM provides access to the largest network of emergency management experts who can provide advice and assistance, the Certified Emergency Manager program, annual scholarships, a comprehensive monthly newsletter and more. Visit www.iaem.com for details.

Educator workshop offered at NASEMSO



The National Association of State EMS Officials is offering a full-day workshop for educators at its annual conference in October in Madison, Wisconsin. The workshop is designed to help educators build curricula and assessment based on the National EMS Education Standards. Standards-based education begins with a clear understanding of what education standards are and how to develop benchmarks upon which curricula is designed and competency assessment measures are performed. Interactive session topics include ways to develop curriculum, classroom activities and lessons that enhance student learning. Lastly, the workshop will address how student learning is measured using an outcome-based approach. For more information, email naemse@naemse.org.

Tips for working outside

It's unavoidable for EMS – you've got to be outside. And this summer has been one of the most brutal on record. Of course, you know the signs and symptoms, and you may have even be coached by your administrator on what to do. But the following tips from OSHA may also be helpful:

- Drink small amounts of water frequently.
- Wear light-colored, loose-fitting, breathable clothing—cotton is good.
- Take frequent, short breaks in cool shade.
- Eat smaller meals before work activity.
- Avoid caffeine or large amounts of sugar.
- Work in the shade whenever possible.
- Find out from your health care provider if your medications and heat don't mix.
- OSHA Heat Stress Quick Card: www.osha.gov/Publications/osh3154.pdf.



New DNR law means you do the same thing

HB 577, passed in the last legislative session, adds clarification to Health and Safety Code §166.102 by specifying that EMS personnel have **no duty** to review, examine, interpret or honor written directives other than an Out-of-Hospital Do-Not-Resuscitate order. EMS personnel (along with other health care personnel) still must honor a valid OOH-DNR. This law takes effect September 1.

SB 193 requires drivers approaching stopped emergency vehicles—with lights activated—to either slow down or change lanes.



The law states a driver must either vacate the lane closest to the stopped emergency vehicle if the road has multiple lanes traveling in the same direction or slow down 20 miles per hour below the speed limit. (If the speed limit is below 25 mph the driver must slow down to 5 mph.)

Emergency vehicles include police, emergency medical service and fire vehicles.

A violation is punishable by a maximum fine of \$200. If the violation results in property damage, the maximum fine increases to \$500. If the violation results in bodily injury, the offense is enhanced to a Class B misdemeanor.

GETAC changes

Pete Wolf, EMT-P, recently announced that he will not seek re-appointment to GETAC when his term ends December 31. Wolf has served for two six-year terms. He says he still plans to be involved, but he'll just be sitting on a different side of the table beginning next year. Wolf represents EMS volunteer providers.

James (Randy) Loflin, MD, FACER, tendered his resignation to GETAC in August, as he is no longer working as an emergency physician, the stakeholder group he represents on GETAC. Dr. Loflin has been a member of GETAC since 2008 and was a longtime member of the Medical Directors Committee.

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Early Bird pricing for preconference classes ending soon. Register today.

For registration information or to find out whether a class is full, call (512) 759-1720.

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